

# **Baltimore County Local Management Board**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 14, 2020, at 1:30 P.M.**  
Virtual Meeting

### **Attendance**

- **Board Members:** Theresa Barrett, Tony Baysmore, April Cockrell, Laura Culbertson, Celena Falline, Tricia Isenock, Colleen Mahony, Mark Millspaugh
- **LMB Staff:** Cydnei' Alexander, Deanna Leedy, Mary Leslie, Don Schlimm
- **LMB Guests:** Lawrence Richardson, DHHS; Matt Fonseca, DJS; Rachel Busick, MedStar

### **A. Welcome and Introductions/ Review of Minutes**

LMB Board Chairperson, Trish Isenock, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

The minutes from the June 1, 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board members in attendance.

### **B. LMB FY21 Budget Reduction – Don Schlimm**

Board members were informed that on June 8, the LMB received an FY21 award letter from GOC for all requested funding – \$1,396,916. However, on July 1, the award was reduced by approximately 10% or \$139,483. The LMB administrative budget and all vendor budgets were reduced by approximately 10% to accommodate the reduction. The new award amount is \$1,257,433.

### **C. Youth Suicide Prevention and Birth Outcome Initiatives – Don Schlimm & Mary Leslie**

#### **1. Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup**

Don Schlimm explained that purpose of the Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) is to prevent deaths through a review of the incidence and causes of child deaths occurring in Baltimore County. The CFRT has been monitoring an increase in County youth suicides that mirrors an increase in youth suicides at the national level. Don shared County data demonstrating a rising trend line in the numbers of suicide deaths among both Black and White youth.

Out of the CFRT a Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup was created which includes various stakeholders including the Health Department, LMB, and School System.

Mary Leslie informed Board members that this workgroup reviewed the Maryland Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS). YRBS is an on-site survey of students in Maryland middle and high schools, focusing on health-related behaviors among Maryland youth. The survey started in 2000 and has been conducted every 2 years since 2014.

The workgroup found the following data for Baltimore county students concerning:

- For Middle School (Grades 6-8), the percent of students who ever seriously thought about killing themselves is 23.5%
- For Middle School (Grades 6-8), the percent of students who ever tried to commit suicide is 9.2%.
- For High School (Grades 9-12), the percent of students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months before the survey) is 16.4%
- For High School (Grades 9-12), the percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide (ever during the 12 months before the survey) is 17.1%

Don Schlimm added that to support the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup's effort further, the Department of Health/Bureau of Behavioral Health has created a Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator position.

The LMB is supporting this effort by providing \$25,000 in funding to hire a facilitator to assist the workgroup and other stakeholders in the development of a strategic plan for suicide prevention. The LMB let an RFP for planning facilitation services earlier this summer and the proposal review process should begin shortly.

## **2. FIMR CAT (Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Team) – Don Schlimm**

Similar to the CFRT, the County also conducts a Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR). The purpose of the FIMR is to prevent infant mortality through the review of fetal and infant deaths occurring in Baltimore County.

Don Schlimm shared County data demonstrating a declining trend line in the rate of infant mortality. However, while infant mortality in general is on a downward trend in Baltimore County, a disparity in the rate of deaths of Black and White infants remains. The County's FIMR Community Action Team (CAT) is working to address this issue.

The LMB is supporting the FIMR CAT's effort by providing \$25,000 in funding to hire a facilitator to assist the FIMR Community Action Team in the development of a strategic plan for reducing infant mortality. The LMB let an RFP for planning facilitation services earlier this summer and the proposal review process should begin shortly.

## **D. Trauma Focused – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training and Certification – Don Schlimm**

Don Schlimm informed the Board members that research has demonstrated the effects of traumatic life events on behavioral health conditions experienced by children and youth. In response, trauma-informed behavioral health treatment models have been developed to address this issue. One of the highest rated trauma-informed treatment models is Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy or TF-CBT.

To increase the availability of TF-CBT in Baltimore County, the LMB has partnered with Medstar/Franklin Square Medical Center to provide opportunities for behavioral health therapists serving County families to be trained and certified in the TF-CBT treatment model. TF-CBT training and certification is a year-long process for a therapist. To date, Franklin Square has conducted 2 initial two-day training classes that will be followed, for each therapist,

by nine case consultation calls with the model trainer, a booster class, and finally the certification exam. Franklin Square has had a total of **34 therapists** participate in the training program thus far. To date, this includes therapists from DSS, DJS, GBMC, FSMC, House of Ruth, the Family Tree, Community Solutions, and a number of other private providers.

April Cockrell, Board Member, shared her experience participating in this training.

#### **E. Effect of pandemic on LMB-Funded programs – Don Schlimm and Mary Leslie**

Don Schlimm explained that the ripples caused by the pandemic have affected the delivery of every LMB program. All of the programs have adapted to the limitations caused by the pandemic or are in the process of adapting to a new normal.

- Outreach Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth were quite drastically affected. The number of unduplicated youth served dropped from an average of 10 per month to zero by June. Fortunately, those numbers are starting to rise again and program referrals were up to 10 in August for the first time in months. Prologue, the program vendor, is in the process of creating a social media network to aid in locating youth.

The Youth Reach survey was postponed so no new data is available from that source. Even so, we were able to identify, through the County HMIS system, that approximately 280 unaccompanied homeless youth received services during FY19.

- The CBT+ program provides therapy for approximately 700 children and youth. Typically, all of those children and youth receive face-to-face therapy at a school or community clinic. Those families, all 700, were transitioned by Catholic Charities to counseling via a telehealth model.

Very few families disengaged from service because of the telehealth transition. In some cases where the parent of the client may have a behavioral health condition, the telehealth model greatly increased parent involvement in therapy sessions.

Don Schlimm informed Board members that 95% of the referrals for the CBT+ program come from Baltimore County Public Schools. Anticipating a reduction in referrals, Catholic Charities is in the process of closing its' Towson clinic. The therapists from that clinic will be distributed throughout the other 3 County clinics. No school-based clinics will be closed.

- Healthy Families, which conducts home visiting around the County, was initially delivering the majority of their home visits by phone. However, they were able to purchase tablets to distribute to families to enhance their ability to connect with families other than by phone. However, family support specialists are developing a whole new model for engaging families virtually, and it has been a challenge.
- Mary Leslie added that the Family Navigation provides navigation services to families of Baltimore County residents whose child is experiencing mental health behavioral problems. Program staff have continued to operate pretty much the same as prior to the pandemic as most of their contacts with families are over the phone and through email. The program

has had changes to their Family Resource Academy. Classes are being developed and very shortly will be provided to these to families via Zoom.

#### **F. LMB Presentation to the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families – Mary Leslie and Trish Isennock**

Don provided a brief description of status of the Out-of-Home Placement issue.

Mary Leslie informed Board members that Maryland's Legislative Services invited three LCT Coordinators in the State, including herself, to present at the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families on Thursday, September 10. At that testimony, she presented an overview of how the LCT operates in Baltimore County. The LCT is an interagency team of representatives from local child and family serving agencies whose overarching goal is preventing out-of-home placements for youth with intensive behavioral health problems. She informed the committee members that Baltimore County's LCT merged in 2011 with the local DSS Multi-D team. In doing so, we can work with families prior to a youth having a behavioral health crisis. Typical behaviors displayed by youth for whom the LCT receives referrals were provided to the Committee members as well.

Trish Isennock shared that MedStar, in partnership with other Maryland hospitals, have applied for a Regional Partnership Catalyst Grant to fund a Behavioral Health Crisis Services Program called G-BRICS. She provided a brief description of the grant, and Board members were provided a handout. The target population for this grant is children and adults who experience a behavioral health crisis in four jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, and Howard County. This five-year grant from HSCRC will establish a foundation for expanded services that will spur innovation and transform the system to give people experiencing a behavioral health crisis timely access to care and services.

#### **G. Open Discussion**

Trish Isennock informed Board members that MedStar Heath is conducting a community survey as part of their Community Needs Assessment. She asked Board members to share this information and to also participate in the survey. LMB staff will email this information to Board members.

She also provided an update to the annual ConnectFest! This year, it will be held on Saturday, October 17, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by BCPL Essex.

Trish also informed Board members that the MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center's COVID-19 Newborn and Infant Essentials Project is supplying mothers and families in critical need with baby to support them during the economic and social repercussions of COVID-19. The target population is residents living in zip code 21221 in Essex and surrounding communities. LMB staff will send this information to Board members via email.

Colleen Mahony informed Board members that her office is seeking approval of a 3 million dollar grant application for eviction prevention funding at today's County Council meeting. The meeting is at 4:00 p.m. today (9/14), and asked if members would like to testify in support of the grant application.

Don Schlimm provided an update to Prologue's Drop-in Day Center project for the homeless. The building at 609 Baltimore Avenue in Towson is over 100 years old and was not designed for the purpose it was being used. The house recently has been found not to be of historical significance; therefore, it can be razed and a new structure built to replace it. The architects are revisiting the plans to include the use of the new building during a pandemic, such as the current COVID-19.

#### **H. Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Trish Isenock.

#### **LMB Future Meeting Schedule**

**December 7, 2020**

**March 1, 2021**

**June 7, 2021**

**September 13, 2020**

**1:30 PM**